

STATE OF ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COOL HARLEY RIDERS TO DELIVER PRESENTS TO RESIDENTS AT BRYCE ADOLESCENT FACILITY

MONTGOMERY - It is hard to imagine being an adolescent or teenager and spending the holidays in a psychiatric hospital. Such is the case for a number of Alabama children residing at the Bryce Adolescent Facility in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. On Saturday, December 15, 2007, they will have their Christmas brightened in an unusual way. Rather than Santa's sleigh, a large caravan of Harley-Davidson motorcyclists will arrive from Birmingham bearing gifts. Riders will leave The Heart of Dixie Harley Dealership in Pelham at 9:30 a.m. and enter the gates of Bryce Hospital around noon to present gifts to the residents.

The Heart of Dixie Harley Owners Group has chosen the Bryce Ride as one of their primary charity rides of the year. In order to make this a warm Christmas for some of the most seriously ill youth in Alabama, the ride is a partnership between The Alabama Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation's mental illness division, JBS Mental Health in Birmingham, and the Heart of Dixie Harley Owners Group.

The Bryce Adolescent Facility is a state-of-the-art youth residential unit with classrooms and certified teachers that enable students to continue their education while in treatment. The facility is a 20-bed unit, with the capacity to serve ten males and ten females ranging from age 13 to 18. Currently, there are approximately 20 residents.

Press Information:

- Press will be allowed to accompany the riders and staff to the administrative office only.
- Please check in at the main administrative office (white domed building) and tell security you are there for the Harley Ride presentation.
- Cameras may be used in front of the hospital as the riders approach the facility.
- Bikers and gifts may be photographed.

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